



SUMMARY OF MEETING STEERING COMMITTEE

Owasco River Multi-Modal Trail Corridor Plan

DATE: December 21, 2011

CHA FILE: 23452

PLACE: City of Auburn

TIME: 12:30 pm

ATTENDEES:

Mary Burgoon (MB)	CHA
Doug Gerber (DG)	EDR
Mike Talbot (MT)	City of Auburn DPW
Stephen Selvek (SK)	City of Auburn OPED
Christine Selvek (CS)	City of Auburn OPED
Mark Odrzywolski (MO)	City of Auburn Engineering
Gary Duckett (GD)	Cayuga County Parks
Jenny Haines (JH)	City of Auburn OPED
Steve Lynch (SL)	Cayuga County Planning & ED

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the meeting was to review comments received during the property owners meeting held on November 15, 2011 and to identify important connections to make with the multi-use trail.

MINUTES:

1. MB provided the following list of concerns and comments received from November 15th meeting attendees. Comments provided by the Steering Committee members are provided italics below.

General Concerns and Comments

- Against the project
- For the project
- Many Pulsifer Drive property owners would agree to having trail along the street or as a sidewalk
- Infringement on privacy
- Personal liability for users who may get injured on trail or private property
- Property vandalism
- Personal safety
- Safety of users
- Trail maintenance: whose responsibility?
- Teenagers congregating on trail near private properties
- Trail access through private properties
- Lighting effects on property owners
- Increase on property taxes

- Decrease on property values
- How will City staff handle the additional maintenance responsibility?

Notable Specific Concerns and Comments

- Fred Kerr, Canal Street: Uses property up to river edge; just received approval from NYS Department of Conservation for a floating-electric plant. Also, he is interested in buying a portion of the Auburn Woolen Mill property. *(JH will find out more about what this is)*
- Linda Kanya, Whitebridge Rd.: Concerned about 125 year old pipe. 2001 construction caused pipe to burst. *(This pipe is located on the east side of the Owasco River)*
- John Allen southeast corner of Washington St. and Tehan Ave.: Willing to allow trail on his property and would be a catalyst for redevelopment of his property into a restaurant/café. *(This property is located on the north side of the river and is important to the development of the river trail. The owner may be interested in selling the property for the trail. Currently the remains of a demolished building occupy the lot.)*
- J.D. Pabis, Auburn School Superintendent: Concerned with people using the trail and coming on to school property. He stated that it could also open opportunities for educational opportunities to County's natural area. Policing of the trail would be important. Stardust Foundation (6-8th grades) are developing a bike trail on school property for use of mountain bikes.
- Owner of Marina near HS: Boats are stored at this site. The Marina he owns on the east side of the river is where the operations are. He is looking at developing this property for residential use. Could City like to purchase property?
- Sabrina Hesford and Deanna Hoey from the Cayuga County Health Department: Health Dept and BOCES are ready to build a trail on High School Property adjacent to the river. They were inquiring about whether this project could pay for materials and tie into the rest of the trail. Spoke to Sabrina later by phone and suggested that the trail not be built at this time; to wait until this project is further along. She agreed.
- Will there be bathrooms?
- Will there be parking?
- Dog owners not cleaning up after dogs
- Will motorized vehicles be allowed?

Notable Ideas about the Trail

- Should install an Osprey platform-May nest there
- Cayuga Home for Children (now Cayuga Centers) is leasing from Yantch-maybe plans for tennis court and playground in the area behind Yantch property.
- Use the trail to highlight historical areas or figures
- Create additional fishing opportunities along the river
- Include amenities along the trail (benches, lighting, trash cans etc.)
- Construct exercise trail in non-urban areas
- Create numerous access points to trail and parking at key locations
- Trail use should not occur past 10PM
- Trail should not be developed on private property
- Start trail at Wadsworth Park; an underutilized area; great location for a passive park
- Consider making Pulisfer one-way with side on-street bike path

- MB presented draft maps of the trail corridor with potential trail points of interest as important trail connections. These maps were reviewed by the committee and the following discussion ensued.
 - The Committee agrees the Stardust Foundation trail will be coordinated with the Multi-Modal trail.
 - Mark Odrzywolski will provide CHA and **edr** with contact information for the Finger Lakes Railway Corp, Cayuga Community Health Network and the Owasco Velo Club. They all have interests in the trail development and use as a bike way. The Finger Lakes Railway Corporation is considering redesigning railroad access near the prison.
 - Consideration should be given to providing decking for fishing at the Mill Street Dam.
 - Homeless people currently live in the Wadsworth Street area.
 - The Committee believes that bicycle use will occur mainly near Emerson and Wadsworth Parks.
 - Downtown is not typically considered to be bike friendly.
 - Several parks that are not immediately adjacent to the trail should be considered as popular biking destination. Hoops Park is a good example.
 - Two popular bicycle races (The Bon Ton Roulet and The Great Race) are held in Auburn.
 - Easements on Osborne and Lake Streets need review to determine deed restrictions related to trails and a recent sewer project completed in the area.
 - The trail hours of operation will be “closed – dusk to dawn.”
 - *Owasco Osborne and Dunn & McCarthy plans have been developed/or built out.*
 - Restaurants and business may have interest in sponsoring signage along the trail to identify close points of interest.
 - Fishing throughout the City is very good.
 - The Hilton Hotel site plan allows for trail development; currently not designed for it.
 - Trail loops for pedestrians should be considered.
2. The Committee indicated interest in developing a website to address public concerns.
- A website can assist the Committee with informing the general public and immediately clarify public concerns and accidental mis-information.
 - It is currently understood that a website component is within the project’s scope of services.
 - The website can be included as a page within the City’s website.
 - The website would not be “as involved” as the Brownfield project website.
 - Stephen will talk to the City’s web designer to facilitate and maintain the website.
 - The website could:
 - Post meeting dates.
 - Be the source of “official” information.
 - Acknowledge public concerns and recognize public comments.
 - Include meeting minutes.
 - The website should not:
 - Identify potential solutions or make promises that may not be achievable.

Please report any additions or corrections in writing within ten calendar days to the undersigned at Clough Harbour & Associates LLP.

Mary M. Burgoon
Project Manager